

STATE OF ARIZONA
ARIZONA AUTOMOBILE
THEFT AUTHORITY
WWW.AZWATCHYOURCAR.COM



NEWS RELEASE
For More Information
Contact: Ann Armstrong
Arizona Automobile
Theft Authority
Phone: 602 364-2892
ann.armstrong@aata.az.gov

For Immediate Release
March 21, 2011

Police and Local Business Sponsors Host Vehicle Burglary & Theft Prevention Events

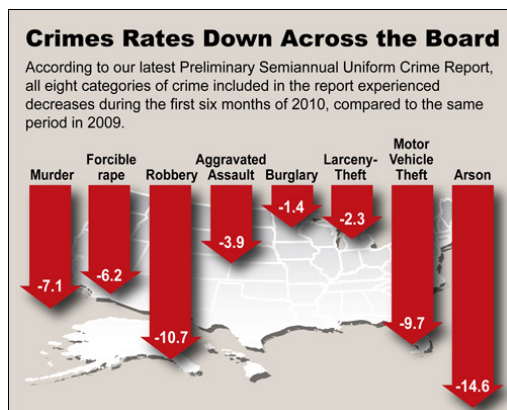
PHOENIX – The Arizona Auto Theft Authority (AATA) announces another round of vehicle burglary and theft prevention events this week with two local business sponsors.

On Wednesday, March 23rd, AAA Arizona kicks off the week with Phoenix Police Department's Desert Horizon Precinct hosting free anti-theft VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) etching at their Scottsdale office from 10am – 2pm. To schedule an appointment for Wednesday, call 602 241-2945 or email publicrelations@arizona.aaa.com.

SunWest Federal Credit Union, Phoenix Police Department, and members of the AZ. Vehicle Theft Task Force are hosting free anti-theft VIN etching at their Phoenix branch on Friday, March 25th from 9am – 1pm - 11839 N. 28th Drive.

On Saturday, March 26th, check out Scottsdale Police Department's Public Safety Event featuring free VIN etching, document shredding, car seat checks and prescription drug collection. The event takes place 10 am – 1pm at Coronado High School - 7501 E. Virginia Avenue.

Preliminary 2010 FBI Uniform Crime Report statistics reflect continued declines in auto theft rates across Arizona. Nationwide, thefts dropped 9.7% the first six months of 2010.



Despite these encouraging numbers, Arizona ranks the #4 state in the U.S. for vehicle theft rate. The AATA reminds the public that auto theft is a crime of opportunity; in order to put thieves out of business and keep from becoming a victim, we must remain vigilant in our efforts. The AATA recommends a “layered

approach” protection plan:

Layer #1 -- Common Sense

- Park Smart - Always lock your car, close all windows and take the keys.
- Avoid vehicle burglaries - do not leave valuables in vehicle or make certain they're not in plain view.
- Never leave your vehicle running unattended.
- Park in high foot traffic, well lighted areas or attended lots - car thieves do not like witnesses.
- Do not hide a spare set of keys in the car - the pros know where to look.
- If you have a garage, use it.

Layer #2 -- Visible & Audible Warning Devices

The second layer of protection is any device that can be SEEN or HEARD and alerts thieves that your vehicle is protected. Some popular examples include:

- Audible alarms, steering wheel locks, brake locks
- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) etching on vehicle windows – visit the AATA's website (www.azwatchyourcar.com – Events calendar) for a list of upcoming events.

Layer #3 -- Immobilizers

The third layer of protection is immobilizer devices which prevent thieves from bypassing your ignition and hot-wiring the vehicle. Some popular devices include:

- Kill switches
- Starter, ignition and fuel disablers
- Smart keys
- High security locks & keys
- Fuse cut-offs

Layer #4 -- Tracking Devices

The final layer of protection is a tracking device which emits a signal to a police or monitoring station when the vehicle is reported stolen. Tracking devices are very effective in helping authorities recover stolen vehicles.

Stay connected with the Arizona Auto Theft Authority on the web:

www.azwatchyourcar.com

Facebook (Arizona Auto Theft Authority)

Twitter (azautotheft)

###